

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Spot Checking
 Food ★ Fun ★ Frolic
 By Bill Whitman



Should Be a Swingin' Year

And why not? Everything seems to be on the up-beat in business generally. Now if we can just get rid of that mess in Vietnam we'll be all set for a Swingin' '69. As usual, the restaurants in and around our southland are kicking things off in fine style on New Year's Eve.

Over at the King's X Restaurant, for example, Tom and Lois Whalley are featuring a "no cover, no minimum, no change prices" offer for your New Year's celebration.

Also, as usual, Lenny Marvin will be on hand to dispense with the music at the piano bar, Ray, Vince and Eddie'll be at the main bar to dispense with the libations and a swingin' trio from Las Vegas will be in the other room dispensing with the music for dancing.

So you're in there for your 1969 openers.

Then around the corner and across the parking lot you'll find Bill Fulkerson carrying on at Nick Cicciarelli's huge piano bar for the evening. That's at the Jet Room Lounge.

Here, too, there'll be no change in prices, or minimum, or cover. It'll be a "first come first served" thing so get there early and stay late.

Nick will have a whole bunch of horns, hats, favors and all goodies like that there for your enjoyment so it'll be a ball.

In Manhattan Beach at the Pen and Quill Restaurant you'll



MARSHMELLOW—She's one of them appearing at the Torrance Ramada Inn on Pacific Coast Highway. Eileen Marsh will lend her talents along with The Marshmellows at the New Year's Eve gala champagne dinner.

find a nice deal so make your reservations like now.

It's to be a big party and will run you just \$8.50 per person. This will include dinner plus favors.

Following dinner you may dance to the music of The Monte Oliver Trio. And if you don't feel like dancing — just listen.

The same price that Bill Fremont was charging last year will prevail this New Year's Eve at the Matador Restaurant on West Pico Boulevard.

It'll be a lavish gourmet type repast featuring the choice of three entrees and will go off at \$9.85.

These are two individual filet mignons, roast duckling, sauce Montmorency, or charcoal broiled New York steak.

Also included, of course, is a Flamenco show, favors, noise makers, hats, the whole shot for a happy New Year's Eve.

Better get hot on the hot line, though 'cause they're filling up rapidly so make your reservations and let's hope you're not too late.

These entrees, Tornos Giordano, (that's the filet mignons) Pato al Horno, Cereza (that's the roast duckling) and the New York steak will be served after 10 p.m. The regular menu prices will prevail before 9 p.m.

Puccia's WALL ST. WEST UNION BANK BLDG. Del Amo Center 371-8493

So give 'em a call at 475-4949 for your reservations.

Now then, over in Torrance it'll be fun time at the Ramada Inn on Pacific Coast Highway.

You'll enjoy a gala champagne dinner and dance here furnished by The Marshmellows. Now hold it a minute! That doesn't mean The Marshmellows will furnish the dinner. Neither does it mean the dinner will consist of marshmellows. Oh, forget it!

Anyway, it'll be a grand bash at The Ramada. Eileen Marsh will be on hand for the vocal talents, there'll be tons of confetti, a whole slew of noisemakers and hats for everyone provided you wear 7 1/2 size.

You'll have a choice on the dinner menu of either lobster thermidor or roast prime rib of beef with all the extra goodies thrown in.

That's not all! For the twenty-five bucks a couple you also receive a bottle of the good old bubbly per couple. And on this price, the tax and tip is included.

So just pick up your 'phone and dial 378-8511 and make your reservations for New Year's Eve at the Torrance Ramada Inn.

By the way, before we leave The Inn, might mention that the next holiday fashion show will be tomorrow, during cocktail hour from 5:30 'til 7 p.m.

There'll be 1969 styles modeled by the Alesse Marshall girls — and all dolls! Saw a short preview of the styles and if this is an indication of what the gals will be wearing in '69 — then wow! It should really be a swingin' year!

And speaking of holidays, don't forget the Holiday on Ice thing at the Forum that'll be coming up here on January 2 so while you're nailing down reservations for your New Year's Eve bash why not nail down some extra reservations for this one!

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This is the 24th edition of Holiday and will be loaded with laughs from not only your old favorites but some newcomers as well.

Remember Paul Andre, the ex-hockey player from Quebec? Well he'll be on hand providing laughs, along with Johnny Leech, the English humorist.

And how this guy got into the skating dodge is a wonder 'cause he's Alfredo Mendoza from Mexico. Know what he used to be? World champion water skier — that's what he used to be! Then there's John LaDue from Plattsburg, New York.

And that cat that does the Charlie Chaplin take-off is really something. His name is Estaban Italiano from Rio de Janeiro. He's just four foot, eight and a fine performer.

So anyway, nail down your reservations for this thing.

So up on the hill at the Red Onion Jose Ancona's got a party going for you.

It's a steak and champagne dinner thing Tuesday, Dec. 31, and the dinner will be served from 10 'til midnight.

And that's a very reasonable price they've stuck on this party. Just \$10 a couple and you can't hardly get that kind of a price anymore. They'll have all the favors and noisemakers, too, but be sure and nail down some reservations for this one. This is at The Onion in Peninsula Center at 27736 Silver Spur Road.

For the reservation bit, call 377-5660.

Another local spot will be Sam Fajla's San Franciscan on

Sepulveda at Crenshaw.

Festivities begin here at 8 o'clock in the evening and will continue on 'till you know when featuring entertainment by The Playmates. Hats, novelties, prizes, and all good stuff like that. Here, too, you better make some reservations. Call 325-5231.

This one should be a gas! You know it's always New Year's Eve down there at the Nuthouse in Wilmington so what can they do for an encore!

Anyway, they're pitching a big bash on New Year's Eve, complete with hats and favors.

Diamond Lil and Big Jo will both be on hand to cheer the celebrants on all evening. As you mix-master Al. After all, you couldn't do without him. Who do you think presses the air button!

Meanwhile, Jim will still be his old efficient self, busy around the Nuthouse picking up (?) and straightening out tables and chairs.

Be sure to make this one early, tho, before the girls run out of gas. Hm-m-m, and come to think of it, that would be well nigh impossible. Not those two! There'll be no change in price or policy.

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